

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for efficiently integrating wireless and wireline functions within a communications network, comprising the steps of:

introducing an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network;

linking said wireless and wireline functions to and from said communications network [[via]] by transferring said wireless and wireline data to said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure utilizing from a network access function within a network edge switch; and

transmitting both wireless and wireline data to said network access function to allow wireless and wireline data to flow to and from said communications network;

determining target recipients for each wireless and wireline data received in a first communication protocol; and

converting within said network access function said wireless and wireline data to a second communication protocol appropriate for said target recipient.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

utilizing multiple functions within said network access function for consolidating and interfacing signal traffic to and from said communications network.

4 - 5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of introducing an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, further comprises: introducing an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, wherein said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure comprises an asynchronous transfer mode fabric interfaced with an asynchronous transfer mode gateway.

7. (currently amended) A system for efficiently integrating wireless and wireline functions within a communications network, comprising:

said communications network;

an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure for transmitting signals within said communications network;

a network edge switch for linking said wireless and wireline functions to and from said communications network [[via]] by transferring said wireless and wireline data to said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure utilizing from a network access function within said network edge switch;

transmitting means for transmitting both wireless and wireline data to said network access function to allow wireless and wireline data to flow to and from said communications network;

means for determining target recipients for each wireless and wireline data received in a first communication protocol; and

means for converting within said network access function said wireless and wireline data to a second communication protocol appropriate for said target recipient.

8. (cancelled)

9. (original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

multiple functions within said network access function for consolidating and interfacing signal traffic to and from said communications network.

10-11. (cancelled)

12. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, further comprises:

integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, wherein said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure comprises an asynchronous transfer mode fabric interfaced with an asynchronous transfer mode gateway.

13. (currently amended) A program of instructions, within instruction bearing media associated with a telecommunication system for efficiently integrating wireless and wireline functions within a communications network, comprising:

instructions within said instruction bearing media for integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network;

instructions within said instruction bearing media for linking said wireless and wireline functions to and from said communications network [[via]] by transferring said wireless and wireline data to said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure utilizing from a network access function within a network edge switch;

instructions within said instruction bearing media for transmitting both wireless and wireline data to said network access function to allow wireless and wireline data to flow to and from said communications network;

instructions within said instruction bearing media for determining target recipients for each wireless and wireline data received in a first communication protocol; and

instructions within said instruction bearing media for converting within said network access function said wireless and wireline data to a second communication protocol appropriate for a target recipient.

14. (cancelled)

15. (original) The program of instructions of claim 13, further comprising:

instructions within said instruction bearing media for utilizing multiple functions within said network access function for consolidating and interfacing signal traffic to and from said communications network.

16-17. (cancelled)

18. (original) The program of instructions of claim 13, wherein instructions for integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, further comprises: instructions within said instruction bearing media for integrating an asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure with said communications network, wherein said asynchronous transfer mode infrastructure comprises an asynchronous transfer mode fabric interfaced with asynchronous transfer mode gateway.